



THE NEW 52!

SUPERMAN

LEX LUTHOR #1

23.3



NOV 2013

RATED T-TEEN

DCCOMICS.COM



I'VE ENJOYED MY
TIME AWAY.

FOR A MAN LIKE ME,
PEACE AND QUIET IS THE
RAREST COMMODITY IN
THE WORLD.

I'VE KEPT THINGS
RUNNING WELL ENOUGH FROM
IN HERE--GIVE ME MY LEGALLY
MANDATED TEN-MINUTE PHONE
CALL AND I CAN DESTROY A
DAM IN HYDERABAD, SCORE
THE CONTRACTS TO REBUILD
IT, SEDUCE YOUR SIGNIFICANT
OTHER AND, AS AN
AFTERTHOUGHT, INVENT A
PHONE YOU COULD USE
TO CALL MARS.

BUT SOMETIMES THERE'S
JUST NO SUBSTITUTE FOR
THE HANDS-ON APPROACH.

IT'S TIME TO STOP
BEING SELFISH.

THE WORLD NEEDS
LEX LUTHOR.

I'M READY,
GEORGE.

OF COURSE,
MR. LUTHOR.

DC COMICS
UNLEASHES
LEX LUTHOR
IN
**UP UP AND
AWAY!**

CHARLES SOULE
WRITER

RAYMUND BERMUDEZ
PENCILS

DAN GREEN
INKS

ULISES ARREOLA
COLOR

DEZI SIENY
LETTERS

AARON KUDER
COVER

AND DANIEL BROWN
COVER

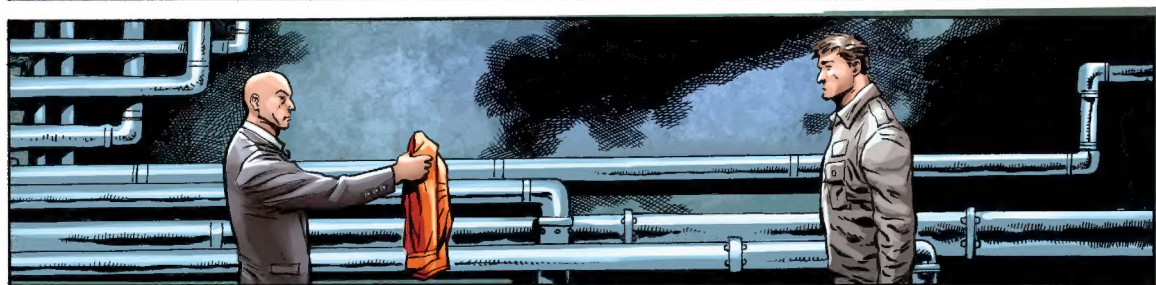
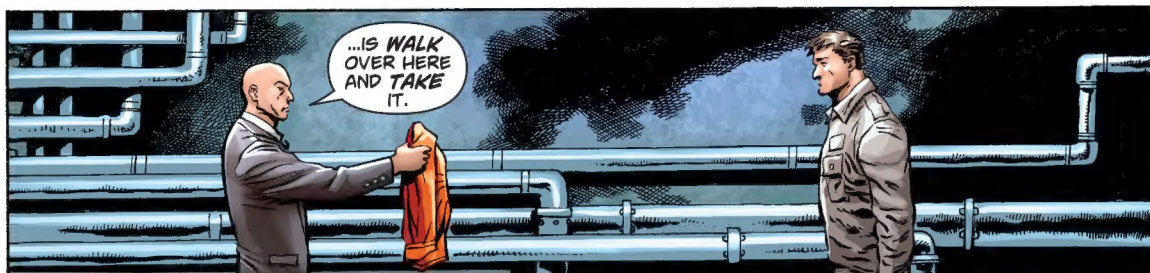
ANTHONY MARQUES
ASSISTANT EDITOR

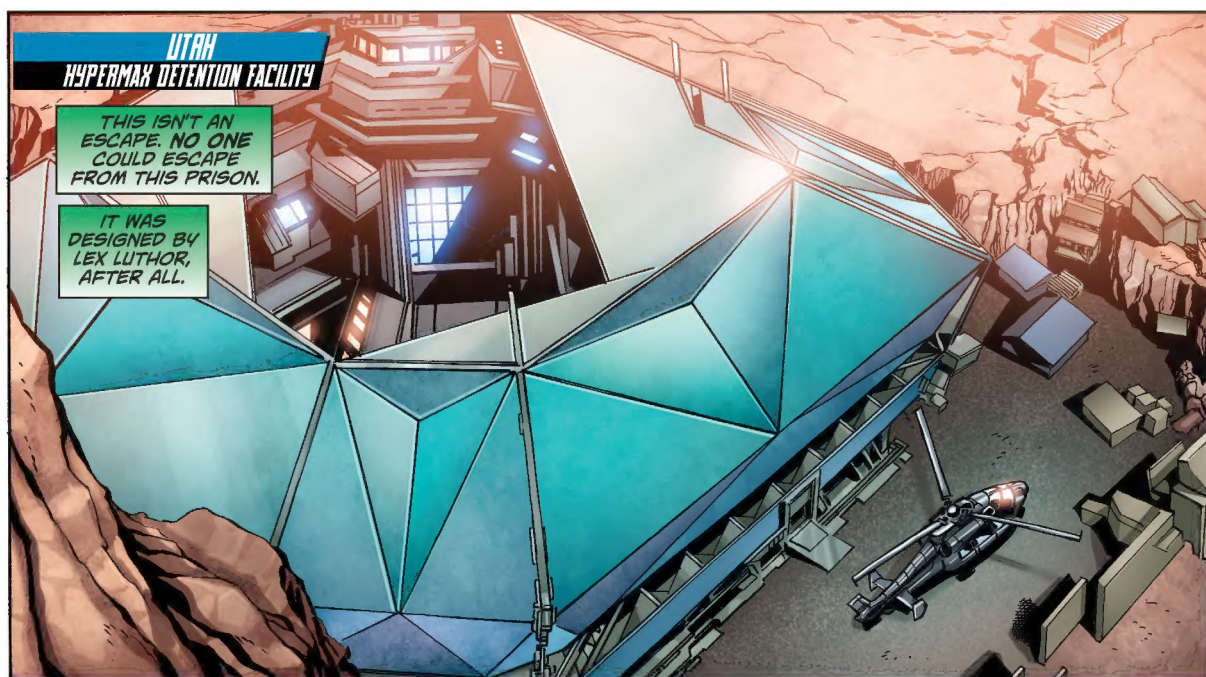
EDDIE BERGANZA
EDITOR

SUPERMAN CREATED BY JERRY SIEGEL AND JOE SHUSTER
BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE JERRY SIEGEL FAMILY



NO, MR. LUTHOR, OF COURSE I MEAN, UNLESS YOU'RE OFFERING...I REALLY COULD DO A LOT WITH...





UTAH
HYPERMAX DETENTION FACILITY

THIS ISN'T AN
ESCAPE. NO ONE
COULD ESCAPE
FROM THIS PRISON.

IT WAS
DESIGNED BY
LEX LUTHOR,
AFTER ALL.



I DON'T KNOW HOW
YOU DID IT, LEX. YOU
WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO
BE OUT FOR TWENTY
YEARS.

LAWYERS,
GENERAL
GARRISON,
LAWYERS. I'VE
NEVER REALLY
UNDERSTOOD
WHY THEY GET
SUCH A BAD
RAP.



STRANGE.

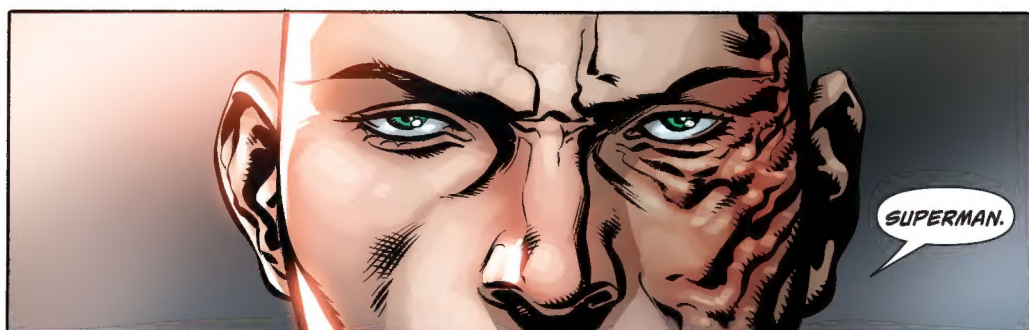
I KNOW HE KNEW
I'D BE OUT TODAY.
HE'S OBSESSED
WITH ME.



SIR, WELCOME BACK. AS
REQUESTED, I HAVE A LIST OF
ALL OF THE UPDATES YOU
ASKED FOR, AND I CAN RUN
THROUGH THEM FOR 4--

WHERE
IS HE,
CASEY?

WHO,
SIR?



SUPERMAN.



HMM. THAT'S ODD.



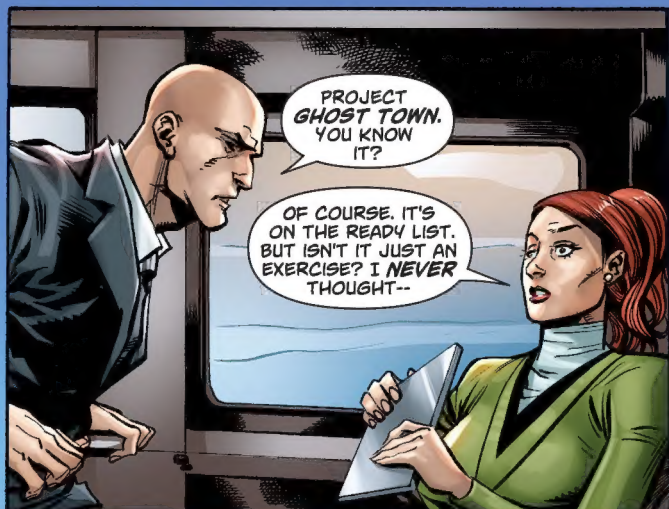
IN WHAT WAY IS THAT INFORMATION *USEFUL*? EFFICIENCY, CASEY. IN EVERYTHING YOU DO. WHAT IS ODD?

SUPERMAN *HASN'T* BEEN SEEN *ANYWHERE* TODAY. DATABASES, NEWS WIRES, SOCIAL MEDIA--ALL *SILENT*. HE'S JUST...



...GONE.

THIS IS INCONCEIVABLE.



PROJECT GHOST TOWN. YOU KNOW IT?

OF COURSE. IT'S ON THE READY LIST. BUT ISN'T IT JUST AN EXERCISE? I NEVER THOUGHT--

I AM ALL HE CARES ABOUT. HE SPENDS ALL HIS TIME WORRYING ABOUT ME, WORKING AGAINST ME, AND THEN THE DAY I'M RELEASED BACK INTO THE WORLD, HE'S NOT HERE TO SEE IT?

INCONCEIVABLE.



RUN IT.

AND WHEN WE GET BACK TO LEXCORP, BURN THIS JUMPSUIT. THERE'S VERY LITTLE I WOULDN'T DO TO NEVER HAVE TO THINK ABOUT PRISON AGAIN.

METROPOLIS. LEXCORP HEADQUARTERS.

...YOU HAVE **FORTY-TWO** INVITATIONS FOR **DINNER** THIS EVENING, INCLUDING FROM **BAR, OLIVIA AND EMMA.**

IGNORE THE FIRST **THIRTY-NINE.** TELL THE LAST THREE TO GET THEIR CELL PHONES OUT AND **PROVE** HOW MUCH THEY'D LIKE TO SPEND AN EVENING WITH ME.

NEXT.

NOEL SPHEERIS IS ATTEMPTING A **HOSTILE TAKEOVER** OF ONE OF THE **LEXCORP SUBSIDIARIES.** IT'S... AH, LET ME SEE...

...AN **AGRICULTURAL CONCERN** BASED NOT FAR FROM **OPAL CITY.** THEY'RE **RESEARCHING--**

ALTERNATIVE FERTILIZERS. **GREENFIELD, LLC.** THEY **HAVEN'T BEEN PROFITABLE** SINCE I BOUGHT THEM, AND THEY **PROBABLY NEVER WILL BE.**

THESE **SURGEONS** ARE **TERRIFIED.** ONE **SLIP,** AND THEY **DON'T JUST RUIN LEX LUTHOR'S FACE,** THEY **RUIN THEIR CAREERS.**

THEIR **LIVES.**

GET **SPHEERIS** ON THE **PHONE,** TELL HIM **EXACTLY** THIS, **WORD FOR WORD.**

I **DIDN'T HAVE TO SAY A WORD.** THEY **JUST KNOW.** YOU **WORK FOR LEX LUTHOR,** YOU **KNOW.**

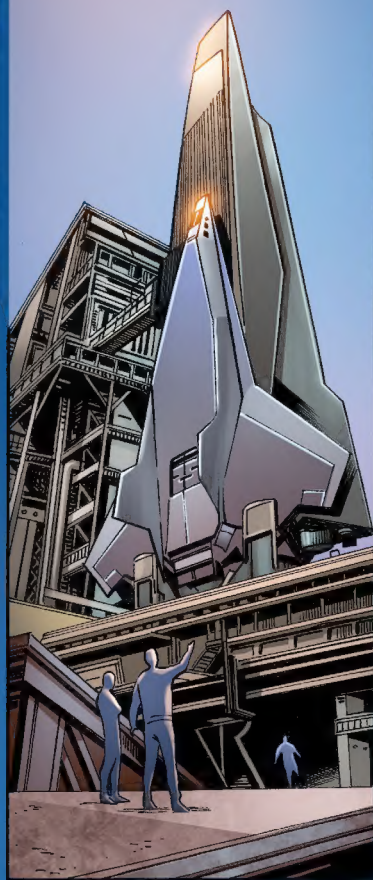
TELL HIM THAT IF HE **DOESN'T BACK OFF,** THEN BY THE **END OF THE DAY,** HE'LL **BEG ME** TO **BUY HIS ENTIRE COMPANY** FOR A **FRACTION** OF WHAT HE THINKS IT'S **WORTH.**

I'LL **MAKE HIS LIFE'S WORK SO TOXIC** THAT HE'LL BE **ABSOLUTELY THRILLED** TO **SELL IT TO ME** FOR **PENNIES ON THE DOLLAR.**

HE **SAYS** YOU CAN **GO SCREW YOURSELF.**

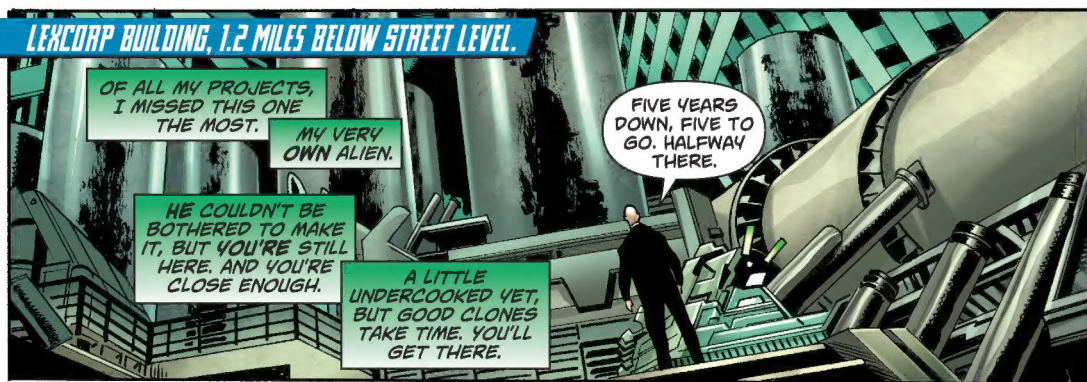
THIS IS GOING TO BE A **WONDERFUL DAY.**





"HE'S GOT
MONEY TO
BURN."

LEXCORP BUILDING, 1.2 MILES BELOW STREET LEVEL.



OF ALL MY PROJECTS,
I MISSED THIS ONE
THE MOST.

MY VERY
OWN ALIEN.

FIVE YEARS
DOWN, FIVE TO
GO. HALFWAY
THERE.

HE COULDN'T BE
BOTHERED TO MAKE
IT, BUT YOU'RE STILL
HERE. AND YOU'RE
CLOSE ENOUGH.

A LITTLE
UNDERCOOKED YET,
BUT GOOD CLONES
TAKE TIME. YOU'LL
GET THERE.

LET IT NEVER BE SAID
THAT LEX LUTHOR CAN'T
PLAY THE LONG
GAME.

GOOD TIMES TO COME.
GOOD TIMES.

MR. LUTHOR,
I HAVE YOUR THIRTY-
MINUTE UPDATE. GHOST
TOWN REPORTS IT HAS
ACHIEVED STABLE
LOW-EARTH
ORBIT.

GOOD. INITIATE THE
SECOND PHASE. ANYTHING ELSE?



NOEL SPHEERIS HAS
CALLED A NUMBER OF
TIMES. HE IS MAKING
THREATS AGAINST
YOUR PERSON. I HAVE
RECORDED ALL OF
THEM. SHALL I NOTIFY
THE AUTHORITIES?

NO NEED.
HE HASN'T
EVEN **BEGUN** TO
REALIZE HOW BAD
HIS DAY'S GOING TO
GET. JUST KEEP
UPDATING
ME.

AND NOW, TIME TO
SHOOT SOMETHING.
THEY DON'T LET YOU
SHOOT THINGS IN
PRISON. AT LEAST
NOT PERSONALLY.





THWAP
THWAP
THWAP

RRRAHHHH!!!

PROXIMITY
ALERT! INCOMING
AT 6 O'CLOCK!

BOOSTERS.

ZSIP
ZSIP

HMPH.

AS YOU
CAN SEE, MR.
LUTHOR, WE'VE
KEPT HER IN
SHIPSHAPE FOR
YOU, AND I THINK
YOU'LL SEE
THAT--

SCRAP IT
AND START
AGAIN.

BUT SIR, WE JUST OVERHAULED
THE ARMOR. THIS IS BASED ON THE
MOST UP-TO-DATE SPECIFICATIONS
YOU PROVIDED BEFORE YOU...LEFT.

I CAN SEE **FOURTEEN** WAYS
TO IMPROVE THE
DESIGN.

IF YOU HAVEN'T
IMPLEMENTED AT LEAST **FIVE**
OF THEM BY TOMORROW
MORNING, YOU'RE
ALL FIRED.

EARTH ORBIT

250 MILES ABOVE STREET LEVEL.

"YOU GET THAT
COURSE CHANGE
ENTERED?"

"I DID. 14.66
DEGREES AS
ORDERED. WHAT
WAS THAT
ABOUT?"

"NO IDEA. I'M MORE
CONCERNED THAT WE'RE
ABOUT TO SHUT DOWN
THE MAIN ENGINES."

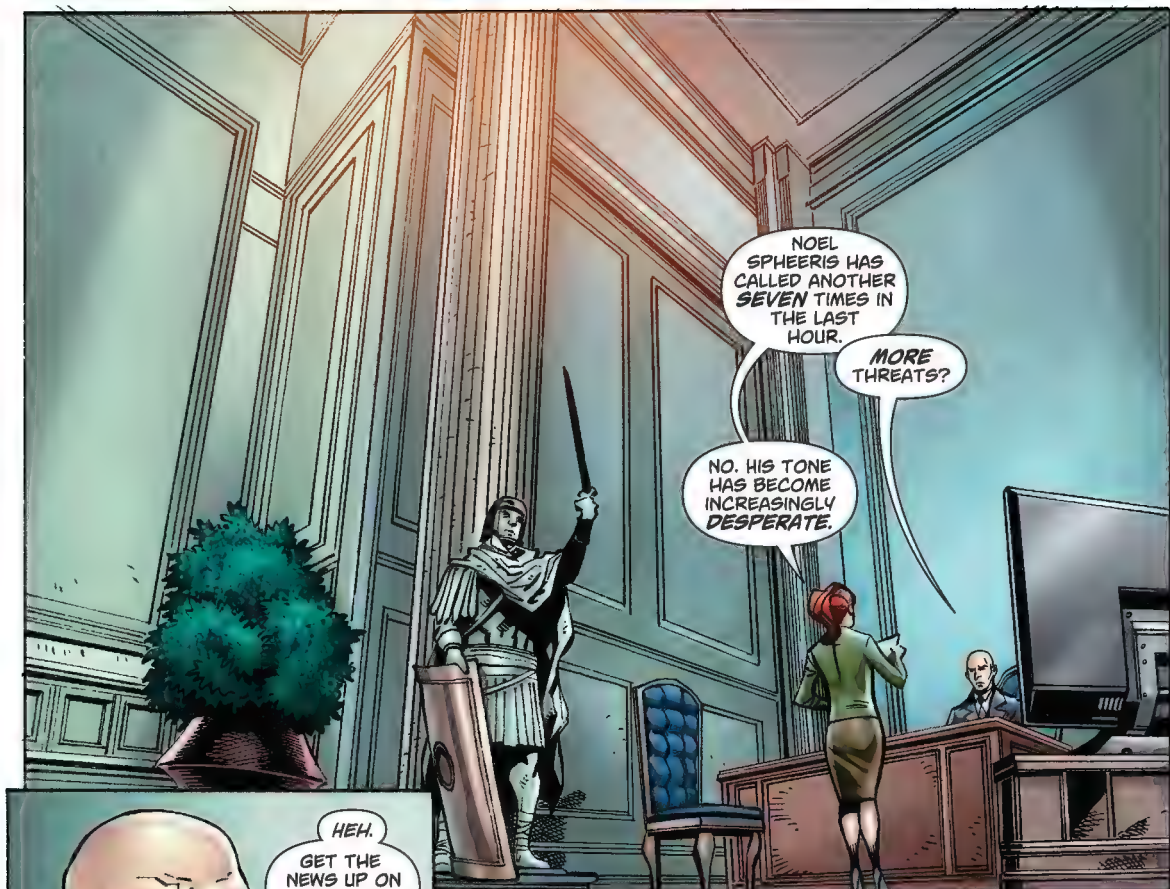
IT'S A STUNT. OVER
AND DONE IN TWENTY
MINUTES. SERIOUSLY,
NOTHING TO
WORRY ABOUT.

DO YOU
THINK HE'LL
REALLY
COME?

COULDN'T
TELL YOU. IT'D BE
PRETTY COOL,
THOUGH.

KTHUNK

"THAT'S IT.
MAIN ENGINES
OFFLINE."



NOEL SPHEERIS HAS CALLED ANOTHER SEVEN TIMES IN THE LAST HOUR.

MORE THREATS?

NO. HIS TONE HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY DESPERATE.



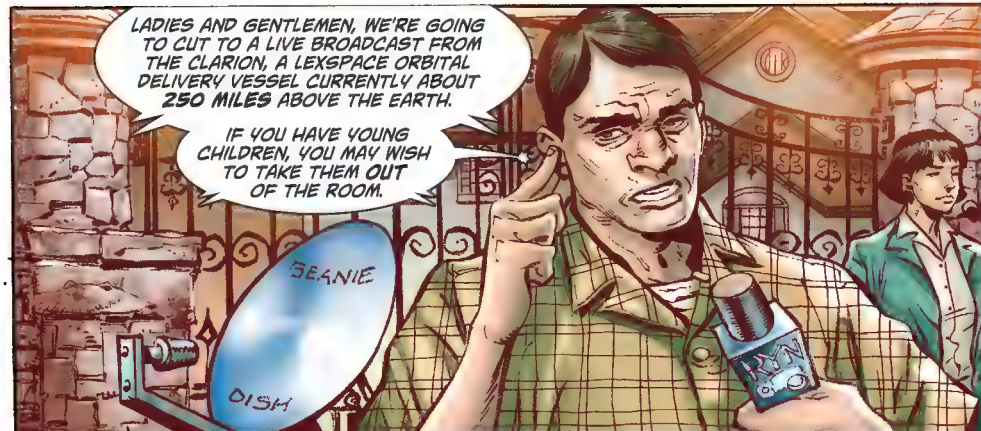
HEH. GET THE NEWS UP ON THE SMALL SCREEN.



WE'RE OUTSIDE THE HOME OF NOEL SPHEERIS, FLAMBOYANT BILLIONAIRE ENTREPRENEUR,--

-- WHO IS CURRENTLY BEING QUESTIONED BY POLICE IN RELATION TO--

-- HOLD ON. I'M GETTING SOMETHING.



LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, WE'RE GOING TO CUT TO A LIVE BROADCAST FROM THE CLARION, A LEXSPACE ORBITAL DELIVERY VESSEL CURRENTLY ABOUT 250 MILES ABOVE THE EARTH.

IF YOU HAVE YOUNG CHILDREN, YOU MAY WISH TO TAKE THEM OUT OF THE ROOM.



THIS IS A
**DISTRESS CALL FROM LS
SHUTTLE CLARION. WE HAVE
EXPERIENCED--TOTAL ENGINE
FAILURE--REPEAT--
TOTAL ENGINE
FAILURE.**

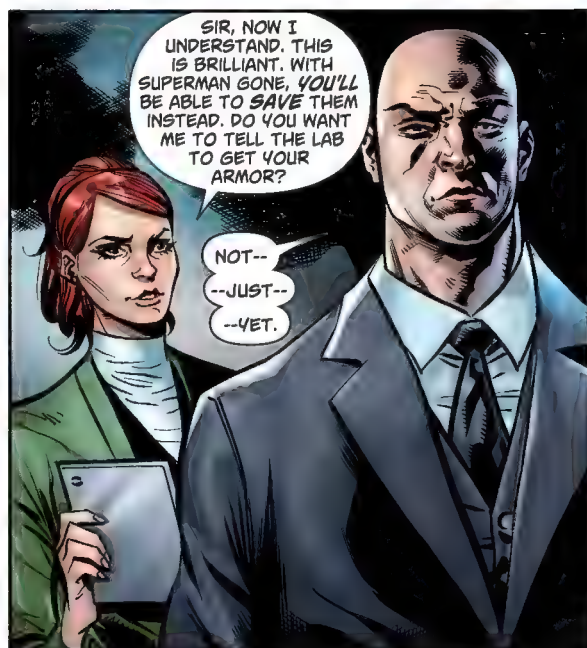
WE ARE IN A
DECAVING ORBIT,
AND WILL IMMINENTLY
EXPERIENCE
**CATASTROPHIC
RE-ENTRY.**



WE ARE
BROADCASTING
WORLDWIDE, ON ALL
FREQUENCIES, TO
REQUEST **IMMEDIATE
ASSISTANCE.**



"SUPERMAN--
SAVE US."



SIR, NOW I
UNDERSTAND. THIS
IS BRILLIANT. WITH
SUPERMAN GONE, YOU'LL
BE ABLE TO **SAVE** THEM
INSTEAD. DO YOU WANT
ME TO TELL THE LAB
TO GET YOUR
ARMOR?

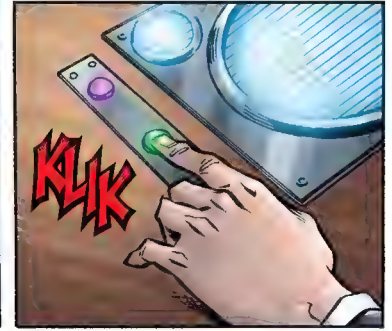
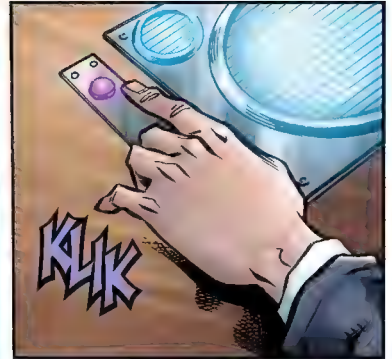
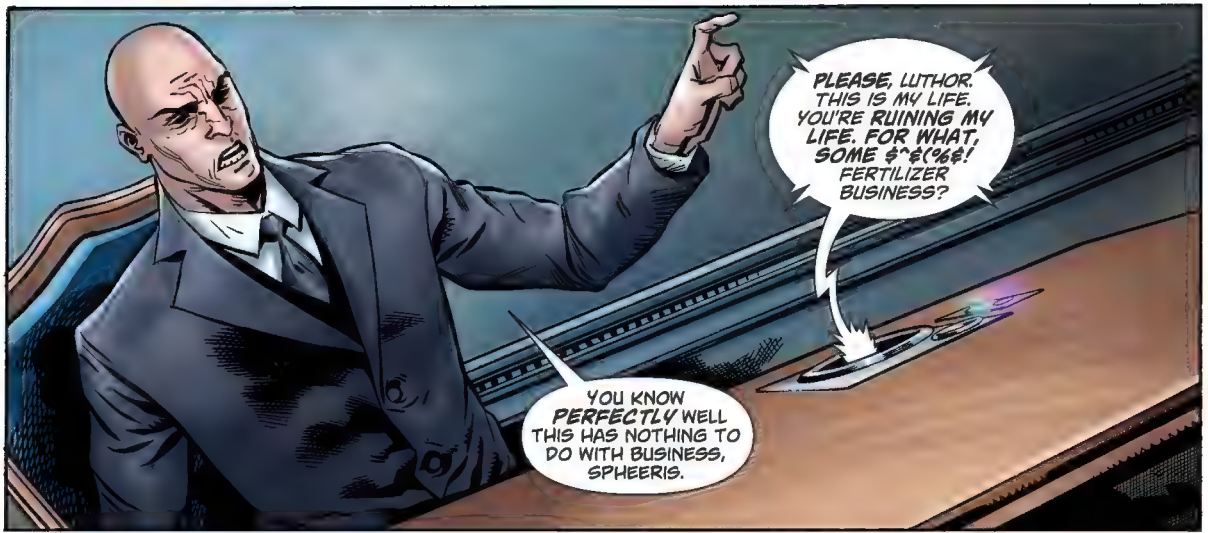
NOT--
--JUST--
--YET.

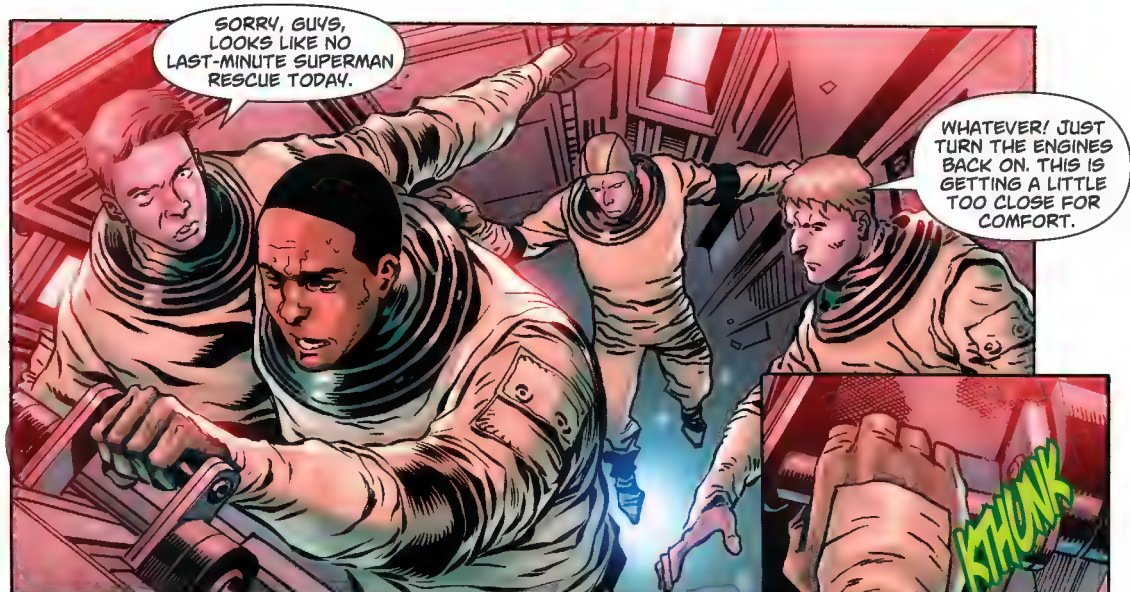


OF COURSE, SIR,
BUT I THINK THAT YOU'LL
NEED TO MOVE PRETTY
FAST IF YOU WANT TO
GET UP THERE IN TI--HOLD
ON, I'M GETTING A CALL.
IT'S SPHEERIS AGAIN.
I'LL PUT HIM OFF.



**NO. PUT HIM
THROUGH.**














--STUNNING, TRAGIC
TURN OF EVENTS, THE WRECKAGE
OF THE DOOMED LEXSPACE SHUTTLE CLARION
PLUMMETED TO EARTH DIRECTLY UPON THE
HOME OF BELEAGUERED ENTREPRENEUR NOEL
SPHEERIS, WHOM YOU WILL RECALL
WAS ALREADY IN THE NEWS
EARLIER TODAY DUE TO--

FOUR THINGS:
FIRST, CALL THE
LAWYERS AGAIN. SECOND,
CALL THE POLICE AND
INFORM THEM THERE'S BEEN
AN ACCIDENT. THIRD, I'LL
NEED A NEW ASSISTANT.
FOURTH, TELL THE PILOT
I'LL NEED TO LEAVE
IN A FEW MINUTES.

I HAVE
A SIX O'
CLOCK WITH
THOMAS
KORD.

OF COURSE,
MR. LUTHOR.



GOOD DAY.

SIX O'CLOCK

IN FACT, I CAN'T RECALL THE LAST TIME I HAD A DAY LIKE THIS. THERE WAS NOTHING STANDING IN MY WAY.

NO ONE STANDING IN MY WAY.

EVERYTHING CAME EASILY. I FELT LIGHT, LIKE A HELIUM BALLOON.

AND HERE I AM, FLYING OVER MY CITY. JUST AS LARGE, JUST AS LIGHT, AND...

"MR. LUTHOR?"

"YES? WHAT WAS YOUR NAME AGAIN?"

MIRANDA, SIR. AND MAY I JUST TELL YOU WHAT AN HONOR IT IS TO BE WORKING SO CLOSELY WITH YOU? I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW EXCITED I AM.

WELL, OF COURSE YOU ARE.

I'M LEX LUTHOR. FOR GOD'S SAKE.

TO BE CONTINUED IN

**FOREVER
EVIL**



